

Croquet Communique – 16th July 2026



The summer season continues with a wide array of national competitions, internal matches and excellent 125 events. There has been some exceedingly hot days with much discussion about getting some additional gazebos and sun cream dispensers. A far cry from the photograph of the ice covered lawns from June's article.

Competition results

On 13-14th June, Roehampton hosted the GC Championship series with yet another stella array of competitors. The final was contested by Reg Bamford and Nick Yates, both of whom are Club Members. Nick played extremely well against the world champion and won the second game. Reg eventually won by two closely contested games to one.



Nick Yates



Reg Bamford



Watching the National Championships

The Tier 1 Inter Club GC match against Phyllis Court was also played at home on 21st June. The Roehampton Club team of Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon, Nick Yates and Diana Wilson did well to beat a strong Phyllis Court side, winning 4-2.

The next round of the Mary Rose tier 2 AC competition was played on Friday 10th July against East Dorset. A reduced team of three, Diana Wilson David Mooney and Nick Yates did well to win 4-1. They next play Hurlingham in the semi final. Very well done to them all.

Roehampton Club, who had won through to this stage of the Tier 3 GC Inter Club Bowl last month, played against Phyllis Court who seem to be repeatedly standing in the way of Roehampton Club in a number of competitions.

Here, Kevin O'Connor led the team of Emile Fernandes, Jenny Gaskin and Chris Bray. Roehampton Club triumphed again beating Pyllis Court 5-2. We now progress to the semi-finals to face either Guildford or Compton.



GC friendly matches

Jenny Gaskin has organised a number of friendly GC matches for the summer. The first of these was captained by Janine Railton against Dulwich and saw Janine, Liz Dodds, Liz Collins and Emile Fernandes win impressively 9-0.



Liz Dodds



Liz Collins

The next friendly was against Surbiton on a swelteringly hot day. Libby Dand (Captain), Allen Lever, Carmel Brancen and David Gabriel did well in the heat to draw 4 all, the last deciding game being abandoned due to the temperature.

The last friendly in this period was played away against Woking on their lovely garden lawns. Here the handicapping system was chosen by the host team who play the newly revised Advantage/Target system.



Here the number of hoops a lower handicapped player needs to run to win is higher than the usual seven and the higher handicap player fewer. This is instead of extra turns. Roehampton Club has not tended to play advantage but Nicholas Halton, Carmel Brancen, Wendy Gilber and Jenny Gaskin managed to do very well, winning 5-4.



Nicholas did particularly well having a GC handicap of 3 and needing to win 11 hoops in order to beat his opponent, which he duly did.

AC friendly

The AC friendly against Hurlingham is always closely contested and sadly Hurlingham eventually won 4-3 in a very tight match. Peter Siddall as captain, Mark Green, Kevin O'Connor and Jenny Gaskin entertained the Hurlingham team with a pleasant drink on the terrace.

Philpot Cup

Open competitions hosted at Roehampton Club included the Philpot Cup over the weekend 4th-5th July. Diana Wilson played and managed this B-level 0+ level, advanced AC tournament.

It was won by Andrew Wise of Hurlingham. The two runners up were Ludolph van Hasselt and Guy Hewitt also from Hurlingham. Joel Taylor kindly helped Diana run the tournament so she could fill a playing gap left by a withdrawn entrant.

British Open

Tim Russell won the plate doubles with Dom Aarvold at the British Open. While there are no pictures, I understand it is on YouTube!

Women's European GC Championships

The Women's European GC Championships are held every two years. This year they were held at Carrickmines near Dublin.

Diana Wilson was one of six players representing England although the competition is individual. 28 players battled it out over four days. The winner was the defender, Maria Taylor from Spain but Diana came fifth, winning the Shield.



Croquet at the 125 Family Day

As part of the 125 Family Day, Jacqui Pattison and Mike Tumath helped by Margaret Swain, Libby Dand, Jenny Harvey, Janine Railton and Carmel Brancen organised a great series of mini croquet challenges using the Croquet England development games that we have.

A steady stream of young and not so young Members had a go at playing croquet. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, including the croquet members. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful introduction to the game.

Housekeeping

On the administration side, I have now cleared the hanging space and cupboard in the main pavilion. Thanks to everyone who helped by removing their things. What was left will be kept for a month and then taken to a charity shop.

There were a number of unnamed and fairly new hats. If you think one of these might be yours, please let me know before I take them to the charity shop.



It is intended that half the space freed up is turned into a lockable storage cupboard for training materials, spare balls etc, freeing up four lockers currently used to store them.

A small number of good quality waterproof jackets and trousers have been kept for emergencies.



New training area

Finally, the Grounds Team has completed the new, larger, all weather training area. This has short hoops for practicing jump shots and hoop running as before but now has a long hoop to practice hoop running from twenty feet or so.

The hoop has been set further into the lawn so that you can practice AC croquet shots around the hoop from either side. It is still bedding in and needs a bit of a roll to flatten it better but it will, I think, be very useful.

MacRobertson Shield

Coming up, we have the MacRobertson Shield which will require some lawn maintenance beforehand and will take place in the last two weeks of July.

You are warmly invited to come and watch the very highest level of international croquet here on our doorstep at the Club.

Howard Railton, Croquet Captain

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MacRobertson Shield 2026
CENTENARY
Edition

Association Croquet
World Team
Championships



Friday 24th to Tuesday 28th July at Roehampton Club

The 2026 Association Croquet World Team Championships Tier 1, competing for the MacRobertson Shield, will be held at our Club in celebration of its centenary and our 125th year. Join us on the croquet lawns as England (2022 Champions), Australia, New Zealand and USA compete for the Centenary MacRobertson Shield.

